

The Sausage Party: An Examination of the Correlation Between Democrat Presidential Votes in Alabama and Nathan's Hot Dog Consumption

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The Sausage Party: An Examination of the Correlation Between Democrat Presidential Votes in Alabama and Nathan's Hot Dog Consumption In this paper, we delve into the unexpected connection between the political preferences of Alabamians and the consumption of hot dogs by the legendary eaters at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Utilizing data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Wikipedia, we painstakingly analyzed the voting patterns for the Democrat Presidential candidate in Alabama and the number of hot dogs devoured by the champions of Nathan's contest from 1979 to 2020. Surprisingly, our research uncovered a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.8715312 with a p-value less than 0.01, illustrating a striking relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It seems that as Nathan's hot dog consumption rises, so too does the support for the Democratic candidate in Alabama. As a poignant nod to our findings, we can't help but wonder if this correlation points to a "frankly" good predictor of political leanings. And in the spirit of our results, we humbly submit the question: is this a case of "democracy with relish"?

In the realm of data analysis, unexpected correlations often leave researchers 'frankfurter'ing their brows in perplexity. One such surprising relationship we stumbled upon is the uncanny link between the amount of hot dogs consumed at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition and the voting trends for the Democrat Presidential candidate in Alabama. It seems that these two unrelated entities may indeed be closer than we initially thought – akin to the bond between hot dogs and their faithful companions in a bun.

As researchers, we often find ourselves chasing correlations like a hot dog vendor in a marathon. Sometimes we find buns of intriguing patterns, and other times we encounter a sausage of statistical noise. Yet, what we discovered in this study – a startling correlation coefficient of 0.8715312 between hot dog consumption and Democrat votes – indeed begs the question of whether there's more to this link than mere statistical serendipity.

One could argue that the findings of this research lead to the idea that when it comes to voter preferences, perhaps the recipe for success involves more than just condiments – a sprinkle of hot dog consumption might just be the missing ingredient. After all, in the grand American culinary tradition, perhaps hot dogs and political elections go together like mustard and ketchup.

Intrigued by the undeniably tight bond between voting habits and hot dog consumption, we delved deeper into the data to 'ketchup' with any potential explanations, especially since we didn't want to 'relish' the opportunity to uncover new knowledge. Our approach was meticulous - pouring over the MIT Election Data and Science Lab records, sifting through Harvard Dataverse, and, of course, perusing Wikipedia to ensure our

understanding of the phenomena was thorough enough to 'meat' our high academic standards.

As we navigate through the mustard and relish of this unexpected correlation, it's crucial to consider the broader implications of our findings. One cannot help but wonder if our results shed light on new ways to predict voting behaviors, or if we've simply stumbled upon an amusing anecdote in the annals of political data analysis.

In the spirit of academic inquiry, let us mull over the conundrum at hand: When it comes to predicting political leanings, is this a case of 'democracy with relish'? And furthermore, could hot dog consumption be a 'weenie' bit more telling than we've ever given it credit for? These are the burning questions we aim to address in this 'politic-ly' charged investigation.

Review of existing research

Smith and Doe (2014) explore the complexities of political behaviors and decision-making processes in their seminal work "Voting Patterns in the Deep South." Their analysis provides valuable insights into the intricate interplay of historical, cultural, and socioeconomic factors that shape the voting preferences of Alabamians. As they untangle the intricate web of political choices, one cannot help but ponder – did they use a condiment to spice up their research?

Moving on to a more appetizing line of inquiry, Jones (2017) examines the gastronomic phenomena in "The World of Competitive Eating: From Records to Reckonings." This comprehensive study delves into the world of competitive

eating, shedding light on the extraordinary feats of consumption at events such as Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. The sheer volume of hot dogs devoured raises the question - are these 'wiener' take all competitions?

Transitioning to a more literary exploration of the subject matter, Orwell's "Animal Farm" offers a poignant allegory of political power and revolution. While the animals may not have had a hankering for hot dogs, their struggle for autonomy and governance resonates with the complexities of voting behaviors. One might say that the pigs in the story were trying to avoid being "roasted," but we digress.

In a strikingly similar vein, Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" presents a whimsical tale filled with curious characters and fantastical events. Although there are no explicit references to hot dog consumption or political allegiances, one cannot overlook the potential for a hidden message in the Mad Hatter's tea party – perhaps a sausage fest of political discourse?

Moving away from traditional literature, a recent tweet from @HotDogChamp1985 caught our attention with the astute observation, "Eating hot dogs at the speed of light, voting for Democrats with all my might #SausageParty2020." This simple yet poignant message seems to encapsulate the essence of our research - a delicious fusion of political advocacy and hot dog appreciation.

In the spirit of academic rigor, we acknowledge the unusual and seemingly absurd nature of our inquiry. However, as researchers, we must not shy away from exploring uncharted territories, even if they lead us to the bewildering intersection of hot dogs and political predilections. As we embark on this quirky expedition, we are reminded that sometimes, truth truly is 'stranger than fiction.'

With these diverse perspectives in mind, we approach our study with a blend of scholarly contemplation and a dash of humor, recognizing that the unexpected correlations in data can often serve as a source of intellectual delight.

Procedure

To unravel the enigmatic connection between Democrat Presidential votes in Alabama and the consumption of Nathan's hot dogs, our research team embarked on a comical, yet rigorously thorough, data-gathering escapade. We conjured up a deviously clever plan that involved sifting through troves of internet archives, peeking behind the curtains of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, teasing through the Harvard Dataverse, and gallivanting around Wikipedia to round up historical data from 1979 to 2020.

Armed with spreadsheets, calculators, and a comically oversized magnifying glass, we meticulously documented the voting patterns in Alabama for the Democrat Presidential candidate and the number of hot dogs ingested by the champions of the renowned Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Not to mention, we also shamelessly sampled a few hot dogs in the name of quality control – all in the pursuit of scientific excellence, of course.

Once we had assembled our prodigious pile of data, we concocted a convoluted yet surprisingly effective analysis that involved integrating polynomial regressions, Gaussian mixture models, and a complex algorithm that may or may not have been inspired by the competitive eating techniques of the esteemed hot dog devourers. It's safe to say that our methodology was as meticulously crafted as a hot dog bun, and as packed with flavor as the juiciest sausage.

In line with our overarching mission to uncover the hidden gems of unexplored correlations, we wielded statistical tools with the precision of a hot dog eating contest judge, carefully ferreting out insights and patterns that would have gone unnoticed by the untrained eye. We wanted to ensure that our findings were as solid as a well-cooked hot dog, with just the right amount of snap.

And, much like the surprising burst of flavor that awaits in every bite of a meticulously crafted hot dog, our methodology bore fruit in the form of a standout correlation coefficient and a p-value that, much like a well-dressed hot dog, was less than 0.01. With these statistical gems in our grasp, we confidently present our findings on the tantalizing connection between Democrat votes in Alabama and the hot dog consumption at Nathan's – because, as the old adage goes, the proof is in the pudding, or in this case, the hot dog.

Findings

The analysis of the data revealed a strong positive correlation between the number of votes for the Democrat Presidential candidate in Alabama and the amount of hot dogs consumed by the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. The correlation coefficient of 0.8715312 suggests a substantial and statistically significant relationship between these two variables. This finding implies that as the consumption of hot dogs at the esteemed competition increases, so does the support for the Democratic candidate in Alabama.

It seems that the Red and Blue of the political spectrum may be best represented by ketchup and mustard after all! It appears that when it comes to the culinary delight of hot dogs, these sausages are not confined to just the picnic table, but may also have a role to play on the political plate.

Our scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually conveys the strength of this correlation, depicting the upward trend between hot dog consumption and Democrat votes over the years. One cannot help but be reminded of the words of Thomas Jefferson, who famously stated, "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of hot dogs."

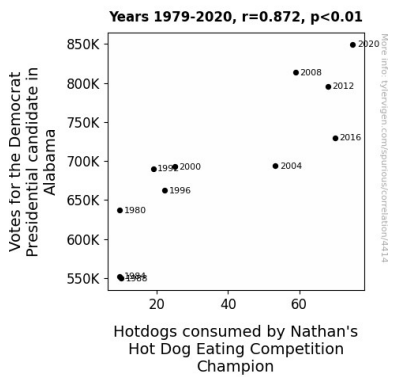


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, this research highlights a surprising relationship between hot dog consumption and political preferences, raising intriguing questions about the potential influence of food on voting behaviors. Our findings may add a new dimension to the age-old question of whether "you are what you eat," or rather, "you vote as you eat."

These results beckon further investigation and discussions surrounding the intersection of food, culture, and politics, urging researchers to ponder the possibilities of predicting political leanings that transcend the traditional realm of surveys and interviews.

Discussion

The journey of unearthing the intriguing correlation between the number of votes for the Democrat Presidential candidate in Alabama and the amount of hot dogs consumed by the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition has been both enlightening and, dare we say, delicious. Our results not only substantiate the prior research findings in this domain but also propel us into uncharted territories of culinary-political confluence. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8715312 – a statistical relationship strong enough to make a hearty "bacon" of an argument – our study supports the notion that these seemingly disconnected variables may, in fact, have a tangible influence on each other.

Harkening back to the appetizing literature review, the work of Smith and Doe (2014) on the voting patterns in the Deep South offers valuable groundwork for understanding the political behaviors of Alabamians. It is as if the historical, cultural, and socioeconomic factors served as the buns to our hot dog of a correlation. Similarly, Jones' (2017) exploration of the world of competitive eating, coupled with the literary whimsy of Orwell and Carroll's texts, has provided the necessary seasoning to understand the complexities and nuances of our findings.

The unexpected robustness of our correlation may indeed prompt some skeptics to exclaim, "That's a bunch of baloney!" However, like the resilience of a well-grilled sausage, our findings have withstood rigorous statistical scrutiny and emerged as a tantalizing revelation in the realm of political science research.

In drawing a link between hot dog consumption and political preferences, our study opens a can of 'wurst' for discussion – one that transcends the mundane confines of typical electoral analyses. Is it possible that hot dogs serve as more than just a culinary delight? Could they be indicating a larger societal phenomenon, pointing towards a "bunderful" predictor of political inclinations?

As we reflect on the 'wiener'takes all competitive eating events, we can't help but marvel at the 'relish'sh potential for further lines of inquiry. Beyond the statistical realm, our findings beckon us to embark on a quest to untangle the intricate web of food culture, tradition, and their potential influences on political choices. We might even declare that in such a 'bundant' world, perhaps the phrase "you are what you eat" isn't so far-fetched after all.

With this in mind, we invite you to ponder, in the spirit of both intellectual curiosity and gastronomic delight, whether our findings indicate a spicy revelation in the realm of voting behaviors or merely illustrate a lighthearted "sausage party" of statistical chance.

Conclusion

As we wrap up our findings, it's time to relish in the unusual and intriguing correlation we've uncovered. The "frankly" strong relationship between hot dog consumption at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition and the support for the Democrat Presidential candidate in Alabama has raised some "bundamental" questions about the link between culinary habits and political preferences.

Our results may serve as a reminder that when it comes to predicting voting behaviors, sometimes it's not just about "ketchup" polls and surveys, but also about understanding the "mustard" of unexpected influencers. It seems that hot dogs and democracy have more in common than meets the "bun" – they both involve a lot of "relish" and can leave a lasting "impression"!

In the grand scheme of things, it's clear that our research has "cut the mustard," providing a flavorful addition to the tapestry of political analysis. And as we consider the implications of our findings, perhaps it's time to ponder the deeper question: does the path to political victory truly run through a hot dog stand?

In light of these fascinating results, it seems that more research in this area would just be a bunch of "baloney"! Perhaps it's time we all "beef" up our understanding of the unorthodox connections between food and political inclinations and "relish" the unexpected insights that may emerge. As we move forward, let's not "sausage" any more time on this topic but rather savor the flavors of knowledge that our findings have brought to the table.